Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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CONFIDENTIAL ANKARA 5093

E.O. 11652 GDS TAGS: MARR, TU SUBJ: VISIT BY U.S. DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL EXPERTS

REF: STATE 171888, DTG 072007Z JUL 78

1. ON JULY 11, EMBOFF CONTACTED FOREIGN MINISTRY DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF NATO AND MULTILATERAL SECURITY AFFAIRS (GUN GUR) REGARDING DELAY IN VISIT BY U.S. DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL EXPERTS PER REFTEL INSTRUCTION. GUR SAID THAT TURKISH NATO MISSION IN BRUSSELS HAD ALREADY BEEN INFORMED BY USNATO THAT DATES FOR U.S. EXPERTS' VISIT HAD BEEN SLIPPED FROM LATE JULY TO AUGUST 15-18. GUR EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE WHEN EMBOFF INDICATED THAT DATES FOR VISIT WERE CONTINGENT UPON TIMING OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THE ARMS EMBARGO, SINCE THIS HAD NOT BEEN MENTIONED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH TURKISH NATO MISSION. NEVERTHELESS, GUR ACCEPTED POINT CONTAINED PARA 1 REFTEL THAT VISIT OF A DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL TEAM AT THIS TIME COULD BE MISUNDERSTOOD IN LIGHT OF IMPENDING CONGRESSIONAL ACTION.

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2. COMMENT: WE WERE NOT AWARE THAT CONTACTS WITH TURKISH MISSION IN BRUSSELS HAD ESTABLISHED AUGUST 15-18 AS DATES FOR DEFENSE EXPERTS' VISIT. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT, PER ANKARA 4655, GOT EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR JULY 25-28 TIMING AND THAT WE HAD ASKED TO BE FULLY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS. GUR NOTED IN DISCUSSION REPORTED ABOVE THAT, BECAUSE OF ANNUAL CYCLE OF MILITARY COMMAND CHANGES, AUGUST

IS A DIFFICULT TIME TO HOST DEFENSE-RELATED VISITS BUT MID-AUGUST TIMING WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE GOT ATTACHES TO DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. ONCE AGAIN, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING INFORMATION REGARDING SPECIFIC INTERESTS OF U.S. TEAM, THEMES THAT WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH THE TURKS, AND PLANS THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES MAY HAVE FOR PROCEEDING WITH DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION WITH THE GOT. DILLON

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